

TITLE OF THE INVENTION:

Method of Inducing Bleeding After Dental Surgery

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to a method of inducing bleeding after dental surgery.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 The human mouth serves as a host for micro-organisms. Dental surgery can result in oral micro-organisms being introduced into the blood stream. Within a short time after introduction, such organisms are circulated to the heart lungs and peripheral blood capillary system.

15 In order to prevent oral micro-organisms from being introduced into the blood stream, it has become standard procedure to induce bleeding after dental surgery. This is presently done mechanically with a sharp instrument. The mechanical damage inflicted unavoidably prolongs the time it takes for the patient to recover.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

25 What is required is a method of inducing bleeding after dental surgery which is less harmful to the patient.

30 According to the present invention there is provided a method of inducing bleeding after dental surgery which involves a single step of flushing a surgical site with gaseous nitric oxide immediately following dental surgery. The nitric oxide is a vasodilator which induces bleeding.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

35 These and other features of the invention will become more apparent from the following description in which reference is made to the appended drawings, the drawings are

for the purpose of illustration only and are not intended to in any way limit the scope of the invention to the particular embodiment or embodiments shown, wherein:

5 **THE FIGURE** is a perspective view of the preferred method of inducing bleeding after dental surgery.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The preferred method will now be described with reference to **THE FIGURE**.

10 In the illustrated embodiment, a jaw 12 with teeth 14 is provided. A surgical site 16 in the manner of a typical extraction is flushed with nitric oxide 18 administered from a dental appliance 20. It will be appreciated that the preferred method may be used in other oral surgeries or sites
15 and other physiological configurations.

In this patent document, the word "comprising" is used in its non-limiting sense to mean that items following the word are included, but items not specifically mentioned are
20 not excluded. A reference to an element by the indefinite article "a" does not exclude the possibility that more than one of the element is present, unless the context clearly requires that there be one and only one of the elements.

25 It will be apparent to one skilled in the art that modifications may be made to the illustrated embodiment without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as hereinafter defined in the Claims.

**THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE
PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:**

- 5 1. A method of inducing bleeding after dental surgery,
comprising the step of:
flushing a surgical site with gaseous nitric oxide
immediately following dental surgery, the nitric oxide being
a vasodilator which induces bleeding.